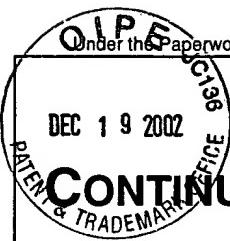


10-23-02

PTO/SB/30 (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**REQUEST**

FOR

**CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Address to:  
Commissioner for Patents  
Box RCE  
Washington, DC 20231

Application Number	09/348,515
Filing Date	July 7, 1999
First Named Inventor	Murakami
Art Unit	3623
Examiner Name	Irshadullah
Attorney Docket Number	22845-038

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above -identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

**RECEIVED**

JAN 02 2003

**GROUP 3600**

## 1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114

a.  Previously submittedi.  Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_b.  Enclosedi.  Amendment/Replyiii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)iv.  Other Extension of Time Petition ;U.S. Pat. No. 6,181,991;  
Fee Transmittal

## 2. Miscellaneous

a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_i.  RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) \_\_\_\_\_

12/27/2002 NMOHAMM1 00000022 09348515

ii.  Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) \_\_\_\_\_

01 FC:1801

740.00

iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_b.  Check in the amount of \$ 1,840.00 enclosedc.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print / Type)	Edward M. Jordan	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	40,666
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Signature	Ed M J	Date	December 19, 2002
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	James A. Italia
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Signature	James A. Italia	Date	December 19, 2002
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Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.